



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1104.0 - CURF Microdata News, May 2006

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New Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) User Guide (Version 4)

All clients will soon be receiving a hard copy of the revised **Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) User Guide (Version 4)** (cat. no. 1406.0.55.002). Please destroy all copies previous to Version 4 as the new RADL User Guide has been revised and now includes Stata information, as well as the inclusion of updated technical information on the RADL.

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RADL benefits

RADL provides 24 hour access to CURFs with the additional benefits of:

- Access to the most detailed data available in Expanded files only via the RADL, plus access to the basic files, that can also be accessed via CD-ROM,
- Secure access from any computer with internet connection,
- SAS, SPSS and Stata software provided within the system,
- Batch query processing with quick turnaround time,
- All data and output stored in your individual secure workspace, and
- No need to manage physical security of CURFs on CD-ROM.

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Release of Stata on RADL

The ABS is pleased to advise that in response to strong client demand, the ABS has now released Stata software for clients to use in the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). With the introduction of Stata, RADL clients are able to use Stata instead of, and in addition to, SAS and SPSS. Clients will find RADL automated checks on data output match those already implemented for SAS and SPSS.

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RADL issues to be aware of

Variables in STATA are case sensitive. All CURFs on RADL contain variables in upper case. In a few instances this can differ from earlier versions of CURF test files that have lower case variable names.

A number of Stata programming and analytical features have been prohibited in RADL, please check the RADL User Guide (page 10) for details. RADL development is underway to allow further Stata functionality.

The CURF Management Unit (CMU) welcomes feedback on CURF or RADL issues - please email [<microdata.access@abs.gov.au>](mailto:microdata.access@abs.gov.au) or [<radl@abs.gov.au>](mailto:radl@abs.gov.au)

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CURFs expected to be released in May and June 2006

CURF users are reminded the ABS regularly updates the List of CURFs expected to be released on the ABS web site.

For your information, future CURF releases include:

Multi Purpose Household Survey (MPHS), Australia, Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (cat. no. 4100.0.55.001) (2004-05) **Available Now**

This Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) from the 2004-2005 Multi Purpose Household Survey, which is available only via RADL, provides statistics on three topics Barriers and Incentives to Employment; Retirement and Retirement Intentions; and Household Use of Information Technology.

National Health Survey (NHS) Basic and Expanded Confidential Unit Record Files (cat. no. 4324.0.55.001) (2004-05) - expected to be released on 31 May 2006.

More detailed information on the differences between the Basic and Expanded CURFs will be provided in the NHS Information Paper.

The 2004-05 National Health Survey CURF contains unidentified individual statistical records with information about 25,906 persons, including geographical information; household and income unit type; demographic, education and labour force characteristics; income and equivalised income; private health insurance coverage and coverage by health concession cards; long-term medical conditions experienced, with a focus on the National Health Priority Area conditions of diabetes, cancer, asthma, arthritis and cardiovascular conditions; recent injuries; indicators of mental health and well-being; recent visits to hospitals and day clinics; consultations with doctors, dentists and other health professionals; days away from work or study due to illness; use of medications; smoking; alcohol consumption; exercise; dietary habits; self-assessed height and weight; adult and children's immunisation; breastfeeding; and hormone replacement therapy for women.

Two CURFs from the 2004-05 National Health Survey are available:

- **Basic** - this CURF contains a basic set of data items at a reduced level of detail. It is available to access on CD-ROM or via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).
- **Expanded** - this CURF contains an expanded set of data items at a more detailed level than the Basic CURF, and is accessible only through the RADL.

Demographic and other general characteristics:

Additional items on the Expanded file include registered marital status, relationship in household, personal gross weekly cash income, sources of cash income of income unit and type of pension/benefit received. Items shown in greater detail on the expanded file include age, country of birth, year of arrival in Australia, occupation, industry, level of highest qualifications and source(s) of personal cash income. The Expanded file also includes some demographic details on all persons in the household which the Basic file does not contain.

Geographic and related characteristics:

Additional items on the Expanded file are section of State, capital city/rest of State, SEIFA index of economic resources and index of disadvantage.

Health status indicators:

On the Expanded file, more detailed information provided includes information about cancer status, ages first told of certain conditions, and injury events (e.g. number, types and location).

Health related actions:

On the Expanded file, finer detail provided includes information about recent stay in hospital, types of other health professionals consulted and number of visits to doctors, dentists and specialists and hospital casualty, outpatients and day clinics.

Health risk factors:

More detailed information on the Expanded file includes the types, frequencies and quantities of alcohol consumed, times exercised, body mass and smoking history.

Household Expenditure Survey (HES) and Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) Basic and Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record Files (cat. no. 6540.0) (2003-04) - expected to be released on 9 June 2006. There are four confidentialised unit record files available from the Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing; a Basic file for each, which are available on CD-ROM and accessible via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and a more detailed Expanded file for each accessible through the RADL only.

The files containing unit record data from the Household Expenditure Survey and the Survey of Income and Housing have been confidentialised and as such contain no names and addresses and the detail for some items of data has been reduced. Subject to the limitation of sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to manipulate the data, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

The differences in content between the Basic and Expanded versions of the CURFs are -

- On the Basic CURF, household size is limited to 6, so any households with more than 6 people have been reduced to 6. If the people that have been removed from the household have income, then their income will have been dropped. There may have been some slight revisions to expenditure as a result of the reduction in household size, but this will have been minimal;
- On the Expanded CURF, a household size of 8 is allowed. The Expanded CURF contains 13745 person records (one for each person aged 15 and over) and includes 3883 children under 15, while the Basic CURF contains 13726 person records and includes 3831 children under 15.
- There are also a few data items that are included only on the Expanded CURF - Remoteness, Section of State and SEIFA decile - as well as several items that have more detailed categories than on the Basic CURF. There may have been some slight revisions to expenditure as a result of the reduction in household size on the Basic CURF, but this will have been minimal. All differences are included in the attached table.

A spreadsheet detailing the differences between the Basic and Expanded CURFs will be available on the ABS web site from 6 June 2006.

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Annual CURF Renewal requirements

The Annual CURF Renewal is a mandatory requirement for access to CURFs. Individual Users need to be aware that they need to provide an annual report on outcomes of their CURF use including ongoing work and published journal articles, papers, conference submissions, etc.

When details of final outputs are available, the ABS compiles a list of 2005 CURF Research Activities. This information also assists ABS subject-matter areas in planning future CURFs - please refer to the following section for more information.

If you need any assistance on the Renewal process please contact the CURF Management Unit - contact details appear at the end of this Newsletter.

List of CURF Research Activities for 2005

A new list of 2005 CURF Research Activities compiled from the 2005 CURF Annual Renewal process is now available. A further 2005 document will be published later in the year.

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CURF Management Unit Contacts

The CURF Management Unit (part of the Information Management and Census Division)

Your CMU/RADL team, who are happy to assist at any time, are -

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CURF Microdata News is a quarterly newsletter created by the CURF Management Unit (CMU) at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

CURF Microdata News is aimed at informing new and current Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) Microdata users about issues and developments in the access to, and use of, CURF Microdata. The newsletter periodically covers topics such as available and forthcoming microdata releases, terms and conditions of access, responsible access to microdata and best practice tips, pricing, microdata research outputs, frequently asked questions, and information about applying for ABS CURF microdata.

Interested readers are also invited to visit the CURF Microdata pages on the ABS web site for relevant up-to-date information about each of these matters, as well as all application forms.

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